

Introducing the APTA National League Championships

A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT FOR ALL LEVELS

OVERVIEW

The APTA is excited to announce the creation of the APTA National League Championships. This new weekend-long event offers all APTA leagues a chance to compete nationally against other leagues. Our first event will be held in April in Chicago, Illinois, home of the largest league in the country.

This new championship event opens courts up to all levels and types of players to compete in a bigger arena—from the Average Joe to the seasoned pro—but players only take on opponents of very similar ability.



HOW ARE PLAYERS RATED?

In order to create a National League Championships, the APTA has built a leveling structure, similar to the USTA. The new APTA Player Rating System will rank all players on a scale from 3.0-6.0. Platform tennis will now have a rating range in which players can be confident they will be competing against other players of comparable ability.

Please do not worry if your league already has a rating system in place. Continue to use that during the season. All leagues will use the APTA Player Rating System before the start of

WHO CAN PLAY IN THE APTA NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS?

Any league that is registered with the APTA Leagues is eligible. The following are APTA League members:

Baltimore Men's	Kingsway, Toronto
Boston Men's	LIPTA (Long Island)
CPTC (Chicago)	MAPTA (Philadelphia)
Cincinnati	Peachtree (Atlanta)
Cleveland	Rochester, NY
Essex, Connecticut	Springfield, IL
Gateway (St. Louis)	WPPTA (West Penn)
Kansas City	Western Mass

WHAT IF MY AREA HASN'T REGISTERED AS AN APTA LEAGUE?

Leagues, or clubs with over 40 APTA members, can become an APTA League during the season. It doesn't matter what type of league you are: ladder systems to leveled leagues can all get qualified. The APTA will work with your league to make sure your format translates into the final set-up of the APTA League National Championships.

Contact Bill O'Brien at bill.obrien@att.net to join the APTA Leagues or to get assistance as a league in converting to the ranking system. Contact Ann Sheedy anytime to answer burning questions.

IS THIS LIKE PRESIDENT'S CUP OR USTA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS?

Absolutely! The APTA National League Championships resembles both the President's Cup event and USTA events. Leagues from around the country will field teams of a certain rating for a 4-court, or 4-line, tournament, at all skill levels. Teams may have more than 8 players. If you enjoy competing in your league, you will love competing against the rest of the country.

the APTA National League Championships.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS EVENT?

- 1) You can strive for the next step of competition. Lower-level players can go beyond interclub play. Mid-level players can challenge themselves and see how high they can go. Higher-level players have another venue to test out their sneaky moves.
- 2) It provides an opportunity to extend the season. Paddle addicts unite!
- 3) More camaraderie and less pressure. Play with a team mentality, meet new friends, do your best and enjoy the rest.
- 4) The model has been tested and it works! Chicago has been holding leveled championships for years and they have tremendous buy-in.

WHO WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS? I'M FIRED UP!

The APTA is here for you. We will answer any and all questions to get your league started on its journey to the APTA National League Championships. Call, email, write, just get in touch. We are seriously excited about this event, too! ■

